

## Happy Birding Virginia!

From lofty mountains in the west to sandy shores in the east, the Commonwealth of Virginia provides exceptional



habitat for over 400 species of breeding, wintering and migrating birds. Some of these birds, like the Northern Bobwhite, may spend their entire year here in Virginia, breeding and wintering in appropriate habitats. Other species like the Cerulean Warbler and Wood Thrush fly all the way from South and Central America to breed here in the spring and

summer before heading south again in the fall. Finally, some birds like the Bay-breasted Warbler simply stop in Virginia on their way north and south each migration season, utilizing the Commonwealth's natural habitats as a critical resting place and fuel stop as they complete thousands of migration miles.

Bird watching, or birding, is one of the most popular outdoor recreational activities in America. What could beat taking a stroll in your local park, listening to the singing birds and looking for the rarities that may be lurking about? Fortunately for Virginians, 18 out of the Commonwealth's 20 Important Bird Areas are accessible by foot and sometimes by bike and even canoe. This brochure has been designed to show you the most easily accessible birding locations in each of Virginia's IBAs.

Please visit the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail website at www. dgif.virginia.gov/vbwt/ to find out more information about each birding site, including directions, site descriptions, access fee information and contacts.

And for more information on the Virginia Important Bird Areas Program, please visit: www.audubon.org/bird/iba/virginia.

Photography Bob Schamerhorn • www.iPhotoBirds.com

Graphic Design by Infinity Graphics • www.Infinity-Graphics.com



### What is an IBA?

Important Bird Areas, or IBAs, are sites that provide essential habitat for one or more species of birds. IBAs include sites for breeding, wintering, and/or migrating birds. IBAs may be a few acres or thousands of acres, but usually they are discrete sites that stand out from the surrounding landscape.

IBAs may include public or private lands, or both, and they may be protected or unprotected. Sites can qualify because they contain species that may be of conservation concern for various

> reasons: individual species that may be threatened or endangered; species that are not widely distributed and thus have a concentrated population in one specific habitat type; or perhaps groups of similar species that are vulnerable because they occur at high densities at a particular location.

# What You Can Do To Help!

Volunteer:

www.audubon.org/bird/iba/virginia

### Virginia IBA Contact:

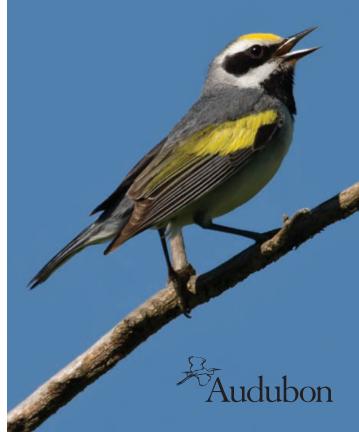
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> Audubon www.audubon.org

### Donate:

https://loon.audubon.org/payment/donate/VAIBA.html





## Audubon Virginia Important Bird Areas Access

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11. Lower Potomac River

Birds: Northern Bobwhite, Rusty Blackbird,

Bald Eagle. Access: Meadowood Special Rec.

Area, Occoquan Bay NWR, Mason Neck State Park

#### 18. Western Shore Marshes

Birds: Least Tern, American Oystercatcher,

Chuck-will's-widow

Access: Grandview Nature Preserve

#### 12. Lower Rappahannock River

Birds: N. Bobwhite. Rusty Blackbird. Bald Eagle Access: Land's End WMA, Rappahannock River Valley NWR - Wilna Unit

#### 13. Mattaponi and Pamunkev

Birds: Rusty Blackbird, King Rail, Bald Eagle Access: TNC Cumberland Marsh Preserve, Waterfence Landing, Walkerton Landing

#### 10. Lower James River

Birds: Bald Eagle, Am. Black Duck, Prothonotary Warbler, Wood Thrush. Access: Dutch Gap C. Area,

Birds: Cerulean Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush. Access: Spruce Creek Park, Shenandoah Nat. Park, Blue Ridge Parkway

17. Upper Blue Ridge Mountains

## 6. Culpeper Basin

Birds: Northern Bobwhite, Prairie Warbler, Red-headed Woodpecker

Access: C.M. Crockett Park, John Marshall Park

Harrison Lake N. Fish Hatchery, Deep Bottom Park

#### 15. Pine Mountain

Birds: Worm-eating Warbler. Swainson's Warbler. Kentucky Warbler. Access: Breaks Interstate Park, Branham Farm Wildlife Area

1. Allegheny Highlands

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Birds: Cerulean Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler,

Access: Highland WMA - Jack Mountain

#### 4. Central Piedmont

Birds: Prairie Warbler, N. Bobwhite, Wood Thrush Access: James River State Park, James River WMA. Cumberland State Forest

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#### 16. Powell and Stone Mountains

Birds: Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler. Access: Legion Park Trail, High Knob Recreation Area, Glady Fork Wetland

#### 14. Mount Rogers-Whitetop Mt.

Birds: Canada Warbler, Wood Thrush,

Access: Gravson Highlands State Park

#### 8. Great Dismal Swamp

Birds: Prothonotary Warbler, Rusty Blackbird, Swainson's Warbler. Access: Jericho Ditch at GDS NWR, Washington Ditch at GDS NWR

#### 5. Chesapeake Bay Islands

Birds: Seaside Sparrow, Royal Tern, Forster's Tern Access: Tangier Island

#### 3. Barrier Island Lagoon System

Birds: Piping Plover, Least Tern, Black Skimmer. Access: Chincoteague NWR, Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR

#### 9. Lower Delmarva

Birds: Clapper Rail, Red-throated Loon, American Ovstercatcher

Access: Kiptopeke State Park

#### 7. Delmarva Bayside Marshes

Birds: Saltmarsh Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, American Black Duck Access: Saxis WMA, Guard Shore

#### 2. Back Bay

Birds: King Rail, Least Bittern, Brown-headed

Access: Back Bay NWR, False Cape State Park





